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To R3 EVERYONE  
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Subject Salients for Week Ending 7/8/2005

Here are this week's examples of efforts we are involved in that demonstrate the Region's progress on improvements to and protection of public health and the environment. A complete list of Divisional salients can be found on the Region's intranet site:  
<http://epawww.epa.gov/r3intran/newsletters.html>

**Defense Department invites EPA Responders to Co-Author Bio-Threat Agent Book.**

**Proposed Bio-Agent Sampling Book** - The Critical Reagents Program of the Department of Defense's Chemical Biological Medical Systems is coordinating publication of a new reference text entitled "Sampling for Biological Agents in the Environment." Impetus for the book resulted from comments received at the first National Conference on Environmental Sampling for Bio-Threat Agents held in Baltimore this past January. The book is expected to address the critical elements of a biological sampling program. DOD's goal is to produce a consolidated resource on environmental sampling that is easy to use and can serve as the industry standard in the biological sampling arena. Employees from several federal agencies, primarily CDC, DOD, EPA and U.S. National Laboratories have been asked to serve as co-authors for various sections of the book. Region III OSCs Jack Kelly and Myles Bartos, and EPA Region V OSC Mark Durno, have been invited to co-author a chapter tentatively titled "Triage for a Sampling Operation." The OSCs are looking into requirements for their participation in this project. A first draft of the book is slated for May 2006. (J. Kelly, 4-3112)

**Shell Planting in the Delaware Estuary to Encourage Oyster Recruitment-** Oyster populations in the Delaware Estuary are declining. In order to address this issue, a large-scale shell planting and transplant program has been planned for this summer that is expected to revitalize the resource and industry. The program, a collaborative effort at the local, state, and federal levels has resulted in a commitment of \$450,000, which is being supplemented by an additional \$300,000 in federal dollars. This bi-state effort between Delaware and New Jersey was officially kicked off on July 6, 2005 in Port Norris, NJ with a short oyster boat trip out into the Delaware Bay to witness shell planting activity. **Amie Howell (215) 814-230**

**Defendants to Complete \$50 Million Cleanup of Maryland Sand Gravel & Stone Site -** EPA announced on July 7 that the federal district court in Baltimore has approved a consent decree settling the government's claims against 40 companies responsible for the contamination of the Maryland Sand Gravel and Stone Superfund Site in Elkton, Md. This consent decree involves the third and final phase of the cleanup which will cost an estimated \$23.5 million and includes treating contaminated soil, backfilling treated soil, and expanding the groundwater pump and treat system. This phase also includes adding substances to the groundwater to enhance the breakdown of contaminants by microbes. In addition, the defendants will address 1,4 dioxane contamination groundwater and soil which may cost as much as \$7 million. Past cleanup activities at the site have cost \$20.7 million. (David Sternberg, 814-5548)

*Salient*

**Last Week the Mid-Atlantic Region Reported 39 Exceedances of the 8-Hour Ozone**

**Standards** During the week of June 26-July 2, 2005, the Mid-Atlantic Region recorded 39 exceedances of the 8-hour ozone standard (.085ppm) and no exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard (.125ppm). Pennsylvania recorded the highest exceedances of .103 ppm at two monitoring sites located in Beaver County (June 27) and Allegheny County (June 26). During the period of April 1-July 2, the Mid-Atlantic Region recorded (141) 8-hour exceedances and no exceedance of the 1-hour standard. Since hazy, hot and humid summer days foster high ozone levels, people with asthma and other respiratory diseases should take extra precautions. The AIRNow website (<http://www.epa.gov/airnow>) is a great resource to get information about daily air quality forecast. Please note that the data is preliminary until the final quality assurance.

**Contact:** Pamela J. Hargett, 215-814-2716; Karen Duhadway, 215-814-2716

**Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative Ramping Up Activities** Region 3 and MARAMA will meet to "package" this effort and develop an action plan for the next several months including an official name and logo, as well as potential stakeholders to target recruitment efforts. The Mid Atlantic Diesel Collaborative (MADC) is a partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The MADC is part of an overall national campaign to reduce diesel emissions. The goal of the MADC is to leverage significant federal funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in the most affected communities and to significantly improve air quality and public health. By targeting the higher polluting engines with the most cost effective strategies, the benefits from this collaborative are estimated to significantly outweigh the costs. **Contact:** Kelly Sheckler, 215-814-2023

**D.C. Council Takes First Step in Creating DOE** - On July 6, the D.C. City Council Committee of the Whole met and discussed Bill 16-16, "District Department of Environmental Protection Act of 2005." Several questions were raised, but nothing controversial. Following the discussion, Council approved the legislation to go onto the Consent Calendar for its first reading. The Legislative Meeting took place immediately following the Committee meeting. The bill can be enacted following the second reading slated for September 20, 2005. Councilwoman Carol Schwartz, the primary sponsor of the bill, stated that more work will be done on the bill during the remainder of the summer. If there are any significant changes from the first reading, the bill will be amended during the second reading, with a third reading and final action on the bill occurring at the first Council meeting in October. Though, of course, her hope is to get it passed in September so that they meet their October commitment. (Shawn Garvin, 814-2998)

**K & L Microwave Heats Up to Voluntary Environmental Program** - WCMD Deputy Director Wayne Naylor recognized K & L Microwave, Inc. as the first company in Maryland to enroll in EPA's voluntary national partnership for environmental priorities. It is a company with a history of sound environmental business practices. Now they are going even further to reduce lead from 400 pounds/year to 50 pounds/year by 2006 by substituting non-lead solder and non-lead tin where possible in its manufacturing processes. The event was covered by two television stations, WBOC and WMDT, and the Salisbury Daily Local. (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543/Joan Schafer, 814-5143)

**EPA to work with Army Corps to address Elkton Munitions Site without delay; estimated**

**cleanup cost \$3.5-4 million. Elkton Farm Fire Hole Site, Elkton, MD** - EPA is about to enter an IAG with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to conduct the cleanup of the Elkton Farm Fire Hole Site. The estimated cost for the cleanup is \$3.5 to \$4 million. The ACOE is currently in the process of completing their FUDS-eligibility determination for the site. If they determine that DOD is the sole PRP, then they will take full responsibility for the cleanup; however, both EPA and ACOE have agreed that, due to the imminent threat posed by the Discarded Military Munitions (DMM) and TNT-contaminated soils onsite, it is important that cleanup begin prior to their FUDS-eligibility determination. If the ACOE eventually takes over responsibility for the cleanup, then EPA could be reimbursed for our incurred costs. (L. Baker, 4-3355/C. Fitzsimmons, 410-305-3027)

**Sustainable Preservation in a Historic Urban Neighborhood** - The Mid Atlantic Integrated Assessment Team (MAIA) continues to produce high quality scientific information on important topics within the Region. Its latest publication "*Sustainable Preservation and Enhancement of an Historic Urban Neighborhood: A Study of East Towson*," discusses the unique issues surrounding sustainable preservation in the historic community of East Towson Maryland. Located in Baltimore County, East Towson was founded in the mid 1800s by freed slaves. The preservation efforts involved several buildings including the Jacob House, a 150 year old log cabin built by the community founders. The publication looks at some of the environmental challenges faced in maintaining historical integrity while performing restoration, and is the result of a collaboration between EPA and many partners including Baltimore County and the University of Maryland -- Baltimore County. For more information on MAIA and its publications visit <http://epa.gov/maia>. (Patricia Bradley, 410-305-2744)

#### **Nutrient/Sediment Pollution Declining in Some Non-tidal Portions of Bay Rivers**

The USGS and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission monitor nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment concentrations at non-tidal river input sites in the Bay's major rivers, and throughout the non-tidal portion of the Susquehanna River in PA. An examination of data collected between the 1980s and 2004 show that, in some of the Bay's major tributaries and throughout most of the Susquehanna basin, the flow adjusted concentrations of nutrient and sediment pollution are decreasing. Flow adjusted concentration trends are largely independent of annual variability in stream flow and allow managers to evaluate the success of point and non-point source programs on a watershed-wide scale. Not all trends are improving or unchanged; the Potomac River shows an increasing trend in phosphorus and the Pamunkey (a tributary to the York River) shows increasing trends in all three pollutants. <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status.cfm?sid=120>  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status.cfm?sid=77>  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status.cfm?sid=121>  
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